under the Ministry of Power, Coal India Limited (CIL) and its subsidiaries and Neyveli Lignite Corporation (NLC) under the Department of Coal, Nuclear Power Corporation (NPL) under the Department of Atomic Energy and the Ministry of Railways.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir.

Twelve State Governments, namely, the Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Jammu and Kashmir, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh have signed the TPA. Nine other State Governments, namely, the State Governments of Bihar, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Maharashtra, Nagaland, Orissa, Rajasthan, Uttaranchal and West Bengal have agreed 'in-principle' to sign the TPA.

(e) The scheme would:

(i) Facilitate settlement of outstanding dues of over Rs. 43000 crore payable by the SEBs to the CPSUs as on 30-09-2001.

(ii) Assist the reforms process in the States by cleaning up the books of SEBs/Utilities, and

(iii) Through Accelerated Power Development and Reform Programme (APDRA) grants and discretionary allocation of Power would be made.

These measure are expected to improve the financial health of SEBs and thus make the sector viable for fresh investments.

Joint venture projects with State Government and NTPC

836. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: DR.T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to State:

(a) whether in a bid to make the States more responsible and ensure financial viability of their projects, the Union Government has decided to initiate joint venture projects with State Government and National Thermal Power Corporation as partners;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government has started process of signing Tripartite Agreement with State Electricity Boards and NTPC;

(c) whether 14 States have already agreed to sign the agreements and more States are expected to follow suit;

(d) if so, what are the States who have signed the agreement; and

(e) by what time this joint venture projects are likely to start?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (e) The development of power projects through joint venture between National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) and State Power Utilities has been one of the suggestions for accelerating the power capacity addition programme.

NTPC and Tamil Nadu electricity Board (TNEB) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on 12.7.2002 for establishing a 1000 MW coal based power project at Ennore in Tamil Nadu as Joint Venture, subject to techno commercial feasibility and bank-ability of the project etc. This is the only joint venture that has been conceived till now.

Deadline set for SEBs to settle their dues

837. SHRI ABANI ROY:: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government had set a deadline of June 30, 2002 for all the SEBs to clear their dues as reported in The Hindu' dated 21st June, 2002;

(b) if so, the progress of SEBs in clearing dues of Union Government;

(c) whether the Union Government had decided to restrict power supply to States which have not cleared the dues; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) On the basis of the recommendations of the Expert Group under the Chairmanship of Montek Singh Ahluwalia that was endorsed, with minor modifications, by High Level Empowered Group of Chief Ministers under the Chairmanship of Deputy chairman of the Planning Commission, Government of India approved the scheme of one-time settlement of outstanding dues payable by the State Electricity Boards (SEBs) to the Central Public Sector